

## BROWNSEED PASPALUM

*Paspalum plicatulum* Vasey

Plant Symbol = PAPL3

Contributed By: USDA NRCS National Plant Data Center



A.S. Hitchcock (1950)  
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### Alternate Names

top paspalum, coqueirinho, pasto-negro, gamelotillo, hierba de cepa, *Paspalum texanum*

### Uses

Livestock grazes brownseed paspalum throughout all seasons. Quail and wild ducks eat the seed.

### Status

Please consult the PLANTS Web site and your State Department of Natural Resources for this plant's current status, such as, state noxious status and wetland indicator values.

### Description

Grass Family (Poaceae). Brownseed paspalum is a warm-season, rhizomatous perennial, native to the U.S. The height ranges from 2 to 4 feet. The leaf blade is slightly folded; stiff; bluish green; 8 to 20 inches long; smooth and hairy near base. The leaf sheath is compressed; smooth; papery and slightly purple at base. The ligule has brown membrane 1/8 inch long. The stem is compressed and often purplish at base. The seedhead has 3 to 7 racemes with each 2-1/2 to 3 inches long. Mature seeds are dark brown and spikelets are extremely cross-wrinkled on the flat side.

### Management

This grass responds to grazing deferments of about 30 days. It decreases under continuous grazing.

### Establishment

Growth starts during late winter and early spring. New growth is usually mixed with old growth. It produces seedheads from early summer until frost. Mature seedheads are mixed with green leaves and new seedheads. In Florida, basal leaves stay green all winter. It reproduces from short rhizomes and from seed. It grows well on strongly acid to neutral, poorly drained, clay loam soils, and on excessively drained, deep, sandy soils. It grows in the mountainous region of Puerto Rico on clay soils.

### Cultivars, Improved and Selected Materials (and area of origin)

Please contact your local NRCS Field Office.

### Reference

Leithead, H.L., L.L. Yarlett, & T.N. Shiflett. 1976. 100 native forage grasses in 11 southern states. USDA SCS Agriculture Handbook No. 389, Washington, DC.

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For more information about this and other plants, please contact your local NRCS field office or Conservation District, and visit the PLANTS Web site <<http://plants.usda.gov>> or the Plant Materials Program Web site <<http://Plant-Materials.nrcs.usda.gov>>

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